

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH and SANITARY
INSPECTOR OF THE URBAN
DISTRICT OF WHITWORTH
DURING 1950

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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE



CHAIRMAN—COUNCILLOR MRS. ISABELLA HEYS, J.P., C.C.

COUNCILLORS A. HARGREAVES

A. RHODES

A. TAYLOR

J. W. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health :

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.SC. (AGRIC.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector :

F. COOKSON, M.S.I.A., CERT. MEAT AND FOODS

Clerk : JULIE NOLAN, D.P.H.H.

Clerk and Solicitor to the Council :

MR. H. HOYLE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of Whitworth for the year 1950.

This year the report has been substantially altered, and a section has been introduced dealing with the general provision of health services in the area. Under this heading an account is given of the personal health services provided by the Lancashire County Council through No. 13 Divisional Health Committee, since it is realised that the members of the Council, in addition to being directly responsible for the environmental health services are also deeply interested in the personal health services provided for the inhabitants of the district.

During the year Measles and Whooping Cough were the most prevalent infectious diseases, the epidemic of the former being the most severe recorded for the past 10 years. It is pleasing to report that for the second year running there were no cases of diphtheria.

The general sanitary conditions have altered little during the year.

Attention is drawn to the death rate of infants under one year of age which is above the general rate for England and Wales, and indicates the need for further improvements in the living conditions of the people. Of the environmental factors prejudicial to the health of young children poor housing is at the moment the most important. I would again stress that much of the money and energy now expended on the personal health services will continue to be wasted until housing conditions have been improved.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Members of the Committee for their support and to the staff of Health Department for their help and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. FARQUHAR.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	111	55	56	} Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident popula- tion : 16.8 Adjusted : 18.1
	Illegitimate	13	9	4	
	Total ...	124	64	60	
Still Births	... ..	0	0	0	Rate per 1000 Total (live and stillbirths) Nil
Deaths	... ..	109	55	54	Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident popu- lation ... Crude ... 14.8 Adjusted 14.8

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Death-rate per 1000 Total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	—	—

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :

Number of Deaths : 4 Males, 2 Females...	6
Legitimate deaths (Infants)	2
Illegitimate deaths (Infants)	4
Death-rate all infants per 1000 live births	48
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	18
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	308

Neo-natal mortality :

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	1
Mortality rate per 1000 live births	8

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 0

Population 7,379	Per 1000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth- rate	Crude Death- rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death- rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 total (live and still)	
Mean of 5 years							
1945-1949	18.1	14.9	0.33	1.53	1.51	1.46	44
1949	16.0	15.2	Nil	1.22	Nil	Nil	42
1950	16.8	14.8	0.81	—	Nil	Nil	48
Increase or Decrease in 1950 on 5 years average							
1945-49	—1.3	—0.1	+0.48	—	—1.51	—1.46	+4
Previous Year	+0.8	—0.4	+0.81	—	Nil	Nil	+6

CAUSES OF DEATH.

ALL CAUSES								M. 55	F. 54
Enteric fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malignant neoplasm—Stomach ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Malignant neoplasm—Uterus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
Rheumatic fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diabetes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebral hæmorrhage ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	19
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peptic ulcer ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Liver diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other digestive diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Nephritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of pregnancy and parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicide ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Motor Vehicle accidents ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other accidents ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other deaths from violence ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other defined causes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	8
Ill-defined or not known ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	6
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ... {	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	64	60
LIVE BIRTHS ... .. {	...	...	...	...	...	...	55	56
Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	4
Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
STILLBIRTHS ... .. {	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
RESIDENT POPULATION ... 7,379									

INFANT MORTALITY.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes. { Certified	1	...	...	...	1	3	...	2	...	6
{ Uncertified
{ Small-pox
{ Chicken-pox
{ Measles
{ Scarlet Fever
{ Diphtheria and Croup
{ Whooping Cough...
{ Diarrhœa
{ Enteritis	2	...	...	...	2
{ Tuberculous Meningitis...
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis...
{ Other Tuberculous Disease
{ Congenital Malformations
{ Premature Birth	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Atrophy, Debility
Marasmus...
Atelectasis
Injury at Birth
Erysipelas
Syphilis
Rickets
Meningitis <i>not Tuberculous</i>
Convulsions
Gastritis
Laryngitis
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	...	...	2
Suffocation...	1	...	...	...	1
Influenza
Endocarditis
Pemphigus...
Accident
Total.....	1	...	...	..	1	3	...	2	...	6

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

Population.

The population of the Whitworth Urban District at the 1951 census was 7,442, this being a decrease of 918 (11%) on the 1931 census. The Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid 1950) was 7,379, and it is on this figure that the birth and death rates have been calculated.

Births.

The total number of births during the year 1950 was 124 which is equivalent to a birth rate of 16·8 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate was 16·0 in 1949 and 18·6 in 1948. Throughout the country generally, the birth rate has been declining gradually after reaching a maximum in 1947.

Deaths.

The chief causes of death are shown in the table on p. 5. Heart disease was the most common cause of death, accounting for 36·7% of the total. All forms of cancer caused 15 deaths, while diseases of the respiratory system (bronchitis, pneumonia, tuberculosis, etc.) were responsible for 14 deaths.

The total number of deaths during the year was 109, equivalent to a death rate of 14·8 per 1,000 of the resident population, as compared with 15·2 for 1949.

Maternal Mortality.

For the past two years there have been no deaths from diseases or accidents connected with pregnancy or childbirth.

Infant Mortality

The trend of infant mortality is generally regarded as our most reliable indicator of changes in standards of living. Infant deaths for the whole of England and Wales have fallen from 138 per 1000 live births in 1901-05 to 29·8 per 1000 in 1950.

In Whitworth in 1950 there were 6 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infant mortality rate of 48 per 1000 live births. This is higher than the average rate for the district (44 per 1000) for the 5 year period 1945-49.

There were no still births and only one baby died of conditions associated with the new-born, viz., prematurity. Reference to the table on page 6 however, shows that there were 5 deaths in older babies; 2 from pneumonia, 2 from diarrhoea and 1 from suffocation. These 5 deaths can be largely attributed to adverse social or economic circumstances, and show the need for further improvement in living conditions and a higher standard of infant care.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Since 5th July, 1948, the personal health services, some of which were previously the responsibility of the Whitworth Urban District Council, have been administered by the County Council through Divisional Health Committees. And although the Whitworth U.D. Council is adequately represented on Divisional Health Committee No. 13, it is considered fitting to include in this report a review of the services provided for the inhabitants of Whitworth by the Divisional Health Committee.

The environmental health services are, of course, still under your own control, but, as your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer, co-ordination locally of the whole of the Public Health Services is ensured.

THE WHITWORTH CLINIC, BURNEDGE VILLA, MARKET STREET

The clinic premises at Burnedge Villas are used as a combined clinic for both school and child welfare purposes. On 1st April, 1950, Dr. Margaret Feeny was appointed to the joint post of School Medical Officer and Assistant Divisional Medical Officer for Whitworth and Bacup areas in succession to Dr. M. Curtain. On page 15 will be found details of the various clinic sessions held at the Whitworth Clinic.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

It is a requirement of section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, that every birth shall be notified to the Medical Officer of the Welfare Authority for the area in which the birth takes place. Since the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation arrangements have been made for every birth notification to be sent to the Divisional Medical Officer, as this method greatly facilitates the prompt visiting of new-born infants and their mothers by the health visitors in the area. During 1950 there were 119 live births notified as belonging to mothers normally resident in the Whitworth district.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Two midwives normally practice in the Whitworth part of the division, but one of these resigned at the end of November, while the other was off duty during the winter months through

illness, so that the help of the Bacup midwives became necessary. During the year the domiciliary midwives attended 70 births, which represents approximately 58·4% of the total born to mothers normally resident in the district.

All the midwives are qualified to administer analgesia and in 1950 gas and air analgesia was administered in the home to 29% of the domiciliary confinements. It is hoped that this figure will be improved upon during 1951. During the period under review the midwives called on the services of a medical practitioner in three cases. The services of emergency maternity units are available from several hospitals in the neighbourhood. Local Authority provision for expectant and nursing mothers includes the free supply of sterilised accouchement outfits and the loan of special equipment for premature babies. Detailed figures of the work done by the midwives are given in the following table :

WORK CARRIED OUT BY L.C.C. MIDWIVES IN WHITWORTH DURING 1950

Number of Midwives	Total Live and Still births and Miscarriages Attended		Cases in which GAS/AIR Adminis- tered	Visits Paid			
	As Midwife	As Maternity Nurses		Ante- Natal	Puerperium	Post- Natal	Total
2*	66	4	20	500	1291	35	1826
*1 re- signed 30/11/50							

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

A weekly welfare session was held at the Whitworth clinic throughout the year. The total number of attendances made by children amounted to 2,465, this being a slight improvement on the 1949 attendances. Children are referred from the clinic to the family doctor, or through the School Health Service for specialist advice and treatment for defects of the eye, or of the ear, nose and throat, or for orthopædic complaints. It is regretted that since December 1948 it has not been possible to obtain the services of a dental officer for the Whitworth area,

even for the priority classes of pre-school children and expectant mothers. Dried milk, cereals and other foodstuffs are on sale at the clinic, and where necessary vitamin and iron products are also available. The following figures summarise the work done during the year :

ATTENDANCES AT WHITWORTH CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

Year	(A) All Sessions (including Doctors' Sessions)									(B) Doctors' Sessions included in (A)				
	Number of Sessions during year	Number of individual children attending at ages :				Number of attendances by children at ages :				Number of Sessions during year	Number of children seen by doctor at ages :			
		0 yrs	1 yr	2-4 yrs	Total	0 yr	1 yr	2-4 yrs	Total		0 yrs	1 yr	2-4 yrs	Total
1950	52	157	31	38	226	2075	255	135	2465	45	304	28	23	355
1949	51	153	25	50	228	1933	192	136	2261					

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

During the year the Whitworth health visitor made 1,123 individual home visits to 690 homes. The health visitor also carried out the duties of a school nurse, and further information on the extent of her work is given in the following table :

WORK CARRIED OUT BY WHITWORTH HEALTH VISITOR DURING 1950

Number of Individual Visits	Number of Homes visited	Clinic and Centre Sessions attended			
		School Clinics	Child Welfare Centres	Antenatal and Postnatal Clinics	Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics
1123	690	104	55	12	9

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Parents have the choice of having their children protected against diphtheria and smallpox either by their own family doctor or at the school clinic. Every endeavour is made by the medical and nursing staff to persuade parents to give their consent to these very necessary and valuable preventive measures.

As will be seen from the table below, 148 children completed the full course of primary immunisation, while 24 received reinforcement injections. This represents a substantial decrease on the previous year's figures and may possibly be explained by the alarm caused by the suggested (but unproved) association between the onset of poliomyelitis and certain recent inoculations.

NUMBER OF DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS PERFORMED IN WHITWORTH

Number of individuals who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation									No. of Re-inforcements			
Age at date of final injection									Age group			
0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	Total under 5 yrs	5—	10—	Total 5-14 years	0—	5—	10-14 incl.	Total 0-14 years
1950												
46	54	9	7	7	123	21	4	25	—	18	6	24
1949												
75	64	11	12	5	167	17	5	22	—	51	84	135

As regards vaccination, however, the smallpox scares in Glasgow and Brighton had the reverse effect, so that in 1950 the number of primary vaccinations was four times the 1949 figure. Outbreaks of smallpox in various parts of the country during recent years have demonstrated the necessity for maintaining a high level of vaccination in the community. The safest age for primary vaccination is during the first six months of infancy. The following table summarises the work done on vaccination :

NUMBER OF VACCINATIONS PERFORMED IN WHITWORTH

PRIMARY VACCINATIONS										RE-VACCINATIONS									
AGE IN YEARS										AGE IN YEARS									
Under 1		1—		5—		15—		Total		Under 1		1—		5—		15—		Total	
P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S
1950																			
25	25	30	30	1	1	1	1	57	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	12	12	12
1949																			
10	10	3	3	1	1	1	1	15	15	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3	4	4

P = NUMBER PERFORMED S = NUMBER SUCCESSFUL

HOME NURSING

With the continued pressure on the general practitioner and hospital services, the need for domiciliary nursing has tended to increase. During the year under review the Whitworth nurse attended 160 new cases. This involved not less than 4,995 separate visits, and this large number reflects great credit on the nurse. The following table summarises the work done:

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DISTRICT NURSE IN WHITWORTH—1950

Type of Case	On books at 31.12.49	New cases attended 1950	Visits during 1950	Deaths 1950	Removed to Hospital 1950	Removed other causes 1950	Recovered 1950	Remaining on books at 31.12.50
Medical Cases	7	43	751	14	9	2	17	8
Surgical Cases	7	26	906	2	4	1	18	8
Intramuscular and hypodermic injections	33	85	3231	1	3	6	79	29
Infectious diseases	—	6	107	—	—	—	5	1
Total.	47	160	4995	17	16	9	119	46

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service is designed primarily to deal with emergency cases, ready to give assistance to families with young children so that the breadwinner may return to work. Applicants are required to contribute towards the cost of this service according to the financial circumstances of the household, but most old age pensioners are entitled to this service free of charge. During the year two part-time home helps were employed. The following table provides a summary of the number and types of cases they attended.

NUMBER OF WHITWORTH CASES ATTENDED
BY HOME HELPS IN 1950

Confinement at home	11
Confinement away from home.....	—
Tuberculosis	—
Sickness (other than T.B)	4
Old Age and Infirmary	2
	<hr/>
	17
	<hr/>

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Health education has an important bearing on the prevention of illness and the informal teaching carried out by all members of the Health Services in the course of their day-to-day duties is supplemented as occasion arises by the distribution of leaflets, booklets and posters from the clinic.

The happy relationship established with the staffs of hospitals in the area allows of continuity of treatment when persons are discharged from hospital and come under the care of midwives, health visitors, or district nurses in the home. After-care arrangements also include the provision of Convalescent Home treatment, and during 1950, 2 adult persons and 1 pre-school child from Whitworth were sent for convalescence under the County scheme.

The care and after-care of persons suffering from Tuberculosis in Whitworth is carried out as a routine duty by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. Articles of sick room and after-care equipment are stored at convenient centres and are available on loan.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Whitworth area is covered by the Bacup Ambulance Station, and there has been a further increase during the year in the number of cases handled by the personnel of this station.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Two mental health workers on the divisional staff are responsible for the ascertainment of mental illness and mental deficiency, for the community care of mental defectives, and the after-care of persons who have undergone treatment for mental illness. By encouraging whenever possible admission as a voluntary patient and by providing close liaison between patient, general practitioner and hospital, these mental health workers are helping to secure specialised treatment in the early stages of mental illness.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Local co-ordination between the School Health Service and the other health services of the County Council is secured by reason of the fact that your Medical Officer of Health, in his capacity as Divisional Medical Officer, is required to undertake duties as Senior School Medical Officer within his division, including Whitworth. Close integration in the field is achieved also since the Whitworth health visitor also acts as school nurse so that continuous contact with and supervision of children can be maintained from birth to the end of school life.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The bacteriological examination of milk, water and ice cream is now carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester, and this laboratory may also be used for the examination of specimens of blood, fæces, urine, throat swabs, etc., in connection with epidemic disease. The laboratories at Birch Hill and other local hospitals continue to carry out bio-chemical and other examinations for general practitioners.

APPENDIX

TABLE I

CLINIC SESSIONS HELD AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC, MARKET STREET
WHITWORTH

Minor Ailments :	Tuesdays 9.30 a.m. – 12 noon Fridays 9.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.
Child Welfare :	Tuesdays 2 – 4 p.m.
Immunisation and Vaccination	4th Tuesday in month, 10.30 a.m.
Ante-Natal Session : (Midwives only)	Mondays 2 – 4 p.m.

TABLE II

DIVISIONAL HEALTH STAFF—WHITWORTH AREA

Asst. Div. Medical Officer & Sch. Medical Officer	DR. M. A. FEENY, School Clinic, Market Street, Whitworth. Tel. Whitworth 52381.
Health Visitor and School Nurse	Miss E. B. Ferguson, School Clinic Market Street, Whitworth. Tel. Whitworth 52381.
Tuberculosis Health Visi- tor	Miss N. D. Hanmer, Chest Clinic, Drake Street, Rochdale. Tel. Rochdale 3892.
District Nurse	Mrs. M. Franklin, Scarr View, Market Street, Whitworth. Tel. Whitworth 52177.
Domiciliary Midwife	Mrs. A. Hillary, 321 Market Street, Whitworth. Tel. Whit- worth 52119.
Home Help Organiser	Miss M. H. Sephton, Divisional Health Office, Heywood. Tel. Heywood 69005.

Mental Health Workers

Mr, J. H. Todd, Divisional Health Office, Heywood. Tel. Heywood 69005. (Outside Office Hours, Tel. Castleton 57825.)

Mr. E. B. Williams, Divisional Health Office, Heywood. Tel. Heywood 69005. (Outside Hours Tel. Oldham MAn 5488)

Ambulance Station,
Bacup

Station Leader F. Smith, Forge Street, Bacup. Tel. Bacup 428.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1950.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED													HOSPITAL	
	Total Cases at all Ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS											Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of per- sons belonging to district.
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 & over					
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	8	...	2	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...
Diphtheria, (including Membranous Croup) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia ... }	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia... }		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumococcal Meningitis..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
Gastro Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria { Contracted in this Country ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g. :—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles, excluding German measles ...	135	...	8	46	35	45	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...
Whooping Cough	54	...	5	19	21	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	207	...	13	67	58	57	3	...	6	1	2	...	...	15	...

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Monthly Incidence, 1950

DISEASE	Total	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	8	1	1	2		2							2
Diphtheria...	0												
Measles ...	135					1	5	2	7	9	19	29	63
Whooping Cough ...	54	3	13	5	8	11	3				1	6	4
Pneumonia ...	5			1			1	2				1	
Erysipelas ...	4			1				1			1		1
Acute Polio-encephalitis	0												
Acute Polio-myelitis	1										1		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	0												
Totals ...	207	4	14	9	8	14	9	5	7	9	22	36	70

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Comparison 1941—1950

DISEASE	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
Scarlet Fever ...	8	28	4	5	3	5	7	13	6	9
Diphtheria ...	...	...	1	1	4	5	14	109	46	7
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	135	101	86	64	27	75	82	79	62	13
Whooping Cough	...	15	67	5	28	24	13	23	2	14
Pneumonia ...	5	10	4	2	3	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	2	1	2	...	1	...	2	2	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	1	1	2	1	...	2	1	...	2
Erysipelas	4	2	6	3	2	2	2	3	1	1
Dysentery	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	1
Gastro Enteritis	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	207	161	196	86	69	112	120	232	119	66

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 year .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 „ .....	...	2	..	...	...	1	...	...
5—10 „ .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 „	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25 „ .....	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
25—35 „	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
35—45 „	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45—55 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65 „ .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	5	5	1	0	3	3	0	0
	10		1		6		0	
	11				6			
Total 1949 ...	4	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
	8		1		0		0	

The following is a list of the occupations, if any, followed by notified cases during the year 1950.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
School Children	1	2
Housewife	2	—
Cotton Operative	2	—
Felt Operative	1	—
Quarry man	2	—
H.M. Forces.....	1	—
	9	2

COMMENTS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications.

The table on p. 17 gives a summary of the various infectious diseases notified during 1950, together with their age incidence.

Incidence.

The table on p. 19 provides a comparison of the incidence of infectious diseases over the ten year period (1941-50), and it will be seen that the total number of cases which occurred in 1950 was above the average, this being due to an increase in measles and whooping cough. The monthly incidence during 1950 is recorded on p. 18, showing the greatest number of cases in the last month of the year.

Measles.

Towards the end of the year an epidemic of measles made its appearance in the district, and 135 cases were recorded during 1950, a figure much above the average for the ten year period. The epidemic continued into 1951, reaching its height about February. Of the total cases 40% occurred in children under the age of 3 years and 66% in children under the age of 5 years. The disease was generally of a mild nature in older children, but 15 cases in young children were admitted to hospital. It is considered that one of the infant deaths recorded as due to pneumonia may have resulted from measles.

Whooping Cough.

The incidence of whooping cough was also above the average for the 10 year period, but there was no epidemic and cases occurred sporadically throughout the greater part of the year. Young children under the age of 3 years were again the most severely affected.

Scarlet Fever.

8 cases were recorded and 6 of these were treated in hospital.

Diphtheria

It is satisfactory to be able to report that no case of diphtheria has occurred during the last 2 years. It is less satisfac-

tory to report that fewer children were immunised during the year than in 1949, and our efforts to maintain a high state of immunisation must be maintained.

Poliomyelitis.

1 case of infantile paralysis occurred in a boy aged 5 years

Tuberculosis.

Eleven cases notified during the year (10 respiratory, 1 non respiratory), in comparison to 9 cases in 1949 (8 respiratory, 1 non-respiratory). There were 6 deaths in 1950, all from respiratory form of the disease, and no deaths in 1949. It is hoped that B.C.G. vaccination, which is now beginning to be used to protect young children in infected families as well as nurses and others specially exposed to infection, will eventually prove a valuable means of controlling this disease.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Whitworth.

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

61 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 16 Statutory Notices for the abatement of nuisances and the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers.

It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings in any case during the year.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Number of premises visited	339
Number of Sanitary Defects found.....	146
Number of sanitary improvements effected	101
Food premises inspected	41
Factories inspected	3
Offensive trades.....	2
Premises under Shops Acts.....	120

SANITARY DEFECTS FOUND.

Houses :

Dampness of walls and ceilings	13
Defective Roofs.....	10
Defective Floor Boarding or Flagging	6
Defective Chimney Flues.....	2
Defective Wall and Ceiling Plaster	14
Defective Fire Ranges, Fixed Boilers, etc.....	4
Defective Skirting Board	2
Defective Eavestroughing	4
Defective Slop-stone Waste-pipes	7
Defective Slop-stones	2
Defective Window Frame or Sash Cords	3
Filthy Rooms and Bedding.....	2

Badly fitting House Door	1
Defective External House Wall	1
Insufficient Water Supply	6
Insufficient Window Opening	1
General :	
Choked Water Closet or branch drainage	6
Insanitary Closet accommodation	2
Insufficient Sanitary accommodation	1
Choked or defective House Drainage	15
Choked or Defective Drainage, etc.....	4
Defective Sanitary accommodation buildings	5
Defective Sanitary accommodation fittings	10
Burst water service pipes.....	3
Water Supply unprotected from contamination	1
Defective Rain Water Pipes	3
Flooded Cellars.....	4
Defective or dangerous Yard Wall.....	1
Accumulation or depositing of Refuse	3
Emission of smoke into living rooms	2
Keeping of Animals	6
Dangerous Buildings	2
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	146
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HOUSING.

At the date of the completion of this Annual Report, very little can be added to previous years' remarks upon this subject, particularly in regard to the older type of houses.

These are often wanting in many points now regarded as essential for the health of the inmates and it is a matter of considerable difficulty to decide how far it is practicable to enforce modern requirements in such houses. Very often it is not possible to effect such alterations as would be considered satisfactory in new premises, and a certain degree of latitude has to be allowed.

No hard and fast line can be drawn between that which is essential and that which is desirable.

There are approximately 750 houses of the back-to-back type and 170 of the back-to-earth type, with a cavity at the rear of little consequence. In both of these types the majority are so built as to be incapable of re-conditioning.

Many of these houses have only living-room and bedroom

accommodation with out-of-date sinks, lacking cooking and washing facilities, proper food storage accommodation, etc. There are also many houses where more than one family use the same sanitary convenience.

In regard to the question of overcrowding I am of the opinion that a new survey is long overdue.

No true figures are available, but I would say that, although many cases have been relieved by the action of the Council, there is still much overcrowding in the Area

There are two or three contributory causes : shortage of houses, or inability or unwillingness of families to pay increased rents of new houses which are being erected.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was no serious epidemic of any infectious diseases during the year under review.

16 houses were fumigated for Tuberculosis and other diseases.

Bakehouses.

The number of premises being used as bakehouses is 19 and inspections have been carried out from time to time. A satisfactory standard of cleanliness is being maintained.

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938-1950.

The provisions of the above Acts, so far as they relate to the sampling of food for nature, substance and quality are administered by the Lancashire County Council in co-operation with the Local Authority.

A total of 45 samples was obtained, 38 of these were of milk and the 7 others comprised :

1 ice cream	1 curry powder
1 mixed spice	1 barley
1 cinnamon	1 lemon curd
1 dessert powder	

In addition to the above 1 "appeal-to-cow" sample was taken during the year.

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :

SAMPLE	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	ACTION TAKEN
1 formal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 2.3% extraneous water	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained
1 formal milk	Deficient 5.1% solids-not-fat the freezing point indicated the presence of 6.5% extraneous water	PROSECUTION : Same vendor. Vendor fined £50 and £4 4s. costs
1 formal milk	Deficient 1.2% solids-not-fat the freezing point indicated the presence of 3.6% extraneous water	
1 formal milk	Deficient 1.8% solids-not-fat the freezing point indicated 4.3% extraneous water	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained
1 informal milk	Deficient 35.0% fat, 37.6% solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 37.7% extraneous water	Formal sample taken
1 formal milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.0% extraneous water	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained

Milkshops.

The number of shops retailing bottled milk is 25. There are no shops selling unbottled milk.

Fish Frying.

There are 12 fish fryers in the district. Mixing of business, *i.e.*, the sale of other foods, from fish-frying premises occurs in some of these. The tendency of mixing of business is not good and I consider detracts from a high standard.

Ice Cream.

31 samples were submitted for Bacteriological examination and were provisionally placed in the following grades :

Grade 1.....	16
Grade 2.....	5
Grade 3.....	6
Grade 4.....	4

Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of Ice Cream it is unwise to pay too much attention to

the bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, 50 per cent. of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent. into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

9 other samples of Iced Products were obtained and reported upon as "satisfactory".

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949.

Under the above regulations the Local Authority is no longer concerned with the production of milk on the farm, this being the function of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Local Authority, however, retains responsibility for those provisions which apply outside dairy farms, for the provisions relating to diseases communicated to man, and the registration of dairies which are not dairy farms, and of dairy-men or distributors of milk who are not dairy farmers.

Throughout the district there are 35 dairy farms and 41 cowkeepers (including dairy farms) representing approximately 600 head of cattle.

Tuberculosis.

45 samples of Milk, as compared with 51 in 1949, have been obtained from farmers during the course of delivery and submitted for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Four of the samples, as compared with one for 1949, were found to contain Tubercle Bacilli, and were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for their attention. Notification was received that the affected cattle had been traced and slaughtered.

Bacteriological.

45 samples of milk as compared with 40 in 1949, obtained in the course of delivery, were submitted for Methylene Blue Tests. 40 of these samples conformed with the required standard. The unsatisfactory samples were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for their attention.

General.

The bulk method of distribution, *e.g.*, the delivery can method, is still very much in evidence. There is to be seen, however, a gradual increase of the bottled milk supply.

To conform with present day standards of hygiene, it is my intention to continually stress the importance of the sealed bottle principle, which will, I hope, have the desired effect, of an entire system of "sealed bottle" delivery. This point can be emphasized by the propaganda which is at present being circularised in the "Clean Food" Campaigns, organised by the Ministry of Health and taken up by Local Authorities.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two in the Area, *i.e.*, one Tripe Boiling and one Hide Curing. These trades have been carried on in a satisfactory manner.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, came into force on 1st April, 1950 and is operated by the Local Authority.

With the co-operation of the Surveyor the Main Sewers were treated for the infestation of Rats. The operation was carried out twice during the year, and the treatments were successful in disposing of a fair number of these destructive pests.

Twenty-one industrial and domestic premises were inspected for rat and mice infestation, and fourteen of these premises were treated.

A part-time man is employed for dealing with these treatments, and a charge is made for his work when engaged on industrial premises.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1938

PART I OF THE ACT.—1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
SECTION I: Factories in which Sections I, II, III, IV and VI are to be enforced by Local Authorities	36	...	...
SECTION II: Factories not in- cluded in (I) in which Sec- tion VII is enforced by the Local Authority	12	...	...
SECTION III: Other premises in which Section VII is en- forced by the Local Author- ity (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	...	...	...
Total	48	...	...

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of defects			Number of offences in respect of which prose- cutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation :				
insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	1	...
not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences against the Act	4	2	1	...
Total	6	4	2	...

PART VIII OF THE ACT.—OUTWORKERS : Two.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The sanitary accommodation of the area is as follows :—

Fresh Water Closets	1875
Waste Water Closets	162
Pail Closets	59
No. of houses on the Water Carriage system	2597

The Pail Closets existing are situated at the following premises :—

Dwelling-houses	35
Mills and Workshops	6
Farms	7
Churches, etc.	11

With very few exceptions they cannot be converted to the fresh water carriage system, in view of the fact that they are situated in outlying parts where there is no sewer available.

In many instances the Waste Water Closets are unsatisfactory, and although the Council grant a contribution towards the cost of conversion to the fresh water carriage system the progress is slow. There is no authority for compulsory conversion.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Public Water Supply is good and abundant 18 Chemical and 18 Bacteriological examinations were made by the Rochdale Corporation and each examination was reported satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Domestic refuse is collected from all dwelling-houses, the collection being carried out by motor waggon. It was not found possible to maintain a weekly collection, but efforts were made to avoid any complaint. The collection was made approximately every ten days.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land at Landgate. The position is suitable, being situated a good distance from dwelling houses, yet at the same time easy of access.

No serious trouble has been experienced due to fire or the infestation of the tipping area by rats, crickets, etc.

Salvage.

The following table shows the weights of materials recovered during the twelve months under review. The collections show a big decrease upon previous years, particularly with reference to waste paper. During the first six months of the year there was great difficulty in disposing of any waste paper salvage and in consequence the collection ceased.

	Tons	Cwts.
Waste Paper.....	6	0
Kitchen Waste	27	10
Scrap Iron, Rags, etc.	3	15

The following gives the details and cost of collection and disposal of household refuse :—

Loads removed	1411
Cost per load	£1 9s. 4d.
Refuse in tons (estimated)	3526
Cost per ton	11/8d.
Number of houses and premises	2971
Cost per house and premises per an.	13/11d.
Average length of haul	1½ miles

SEWAGE WORKS.

The method of treatment is by precipitation tanks, continuous filters and humus tanks. Two samples of effluent were taken by the Lancashire River Board Inspector, and these were classed “satisfactory.”

Difficulties have again been experienced in obtaining early deliveries of materials, such as hessian and lime, and in consequence the smooth working of the works was interfered with.

New handicaps have arisen due to many of the essential parts of the Sewage Plant wearing out, which during the war period could not be overhauled and repaired or replaced.

The Committee will in the near future have to deal with the pumping apparatus at the Healey Station. This plant has repeatedly had to be repaired and many complaints have been received regarding the nuisance caused in the Healey Area during pumping operations.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I desire to acknowledge the courtesy extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also tender my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and Miss J. Nolan for their assistance rendered in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Your obedient servant,

FRED COOKSON, C.R.S.I.,

*Health Department,
Council Offices,
Whitworth.
August 1951.*

*Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Foods Inspector.*

